REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7-27 and 31-48 are pending. All of the claims have been rejected. Claims 1, 23 and 24 have been amended to more clearly recite that the virtual library is a non-enumerated virtual combinatorial library. This amendment, which does not alter the scope of the claims, is supported by the specification at p. 11, lines 21-22. In addition, claims 1, 23-25, 47 and 48 have been amended to more clearly state randomly selecting the set of N enumerated compounds. This is supported by the specification at for example, p. 18, ll. 9-28, p. 20, ll. 14-16 and p. 21, ll. 21:17-19. Claims 19 and 43 have been amended to correct a typographical error (to change "know" to "known" in claims 19 and 43 and change "compounds" to "compound" in claim 19) and to more clearly recite the similarity measures that can be used. Support for the amendment is found, *e.g.*, at p. 24, lines 13 to 14. In addition, one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that pairwise similarities between a query structure and sets of enumerated compounds could include similarities in structure or similarities in surface characteristics.

Summary of Telephonic Examiner Interview on October 17, 2003

Applicant thanks the Examiner for granting a telephonic interview on October 17, 2003. Rejections based on Tokizane *et al.* and Young *et al.* were discussed. During the Examiner Interview on October 17, 2003, Applicant clarified to the Examiner that the term "building block" as used in the claims in the instant application defines reagents which have undergone virtual (or actual) chemical transformations, in contrast to individual component atoms in substructures of stored generic structures which have not been selected on the basis of their synthetic origin, and are not capable of undergoing chemical transformations to form enumerated compounds. Applicant indicated that it would identify portions of the specification which make clear that the building blocks are distinguishable from the atoms used to define stored generic structures in the Tokizane *et al.* reference. The Examiner agreed that support in the specification for Applicant's interpretation of "building block" would appear to distinguish Tokizane *et al.* The specification of the instant application at page 11, lines 25-27 makes clear that the enumerating step of the claimed invention starts with reagents, and that chemical transformations are performed on those reagents to generate the N enumerated compounds. Following selecting of the M compounds, the selected M compounds are then deconvoluted into their reagents, and a focused library can be generated from those reagents. Specification at page 4, lines 4-7. For the